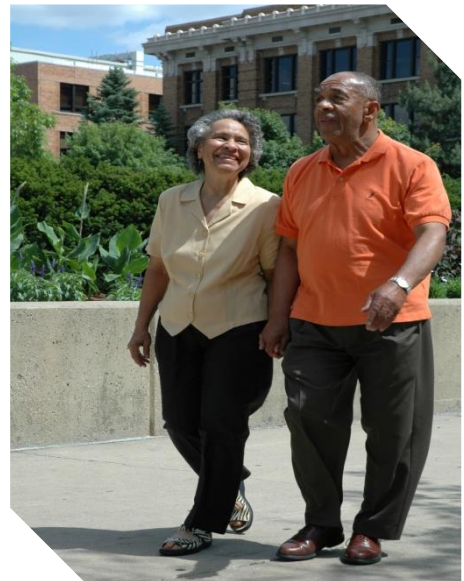


Michigan Senior Mobility and Safety Action Plan 2013-2016

Updated June 2015



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<http://www.michigan.gov/gtsac>

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

This document has been prepared by the members of the Senior Mobility Work Group (SMWG). It is considered a living document, and is a compilation of activities and initiatives to address Safe Senior Mobility in the state of Michigan.

The Senior Mobility Work Group is part of a network of ad hoc committees comprised of local, state, federal and private partners, working in collaboration with the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) to identify traffic safety challenges and comprehensive solutions. The result of these efforts is the production of the State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). While the strategies identified in the State's SHSP have been approved by the GTSAC, the activities and initiatives identified in this Action Plan, as well as any opinions or conclusions expressed, are those of the individual SMWG member agencies and not necessarily those of the GTSAC.

Introduction

Michigan has an extensive senior transportation network. Every county has some form of senior transportation service which includes public transit providers, specialized service agencies, or volunteer driver services, all focused on keeping Michigan's aging population mobile. There also are a number of very innovative programs across the state demonstrating daily that senior transportation can be successfully delivered.

In 2014, there were 1,360,348 older licensed drivers (age 65 and older) in Michigan, representing 19.1 percent of all licensed Michigan drivers. The number of older licensed drivers in Michigan has increased 29.2 percent in the past 10 years (2005 – 1,053,034 senior licensed drivers and 2014 – 1,360,348 senior licensed drivers) while the total number of Michigan drivers has decreased 1.2 percent (2005 – 7,217,208 total licensed drivers and 2014 – 7,130,205 total licensed drivers).

The focus of the Senior Mobility Action Plan is to reduce the rate and severity of crashes involving senior road users. Because of the increase in the aging population, the number of senior driver crashes is a unique challenge for this group. The number of licensed drivers over 65 is expected to increase for the next two decades, which is why the rate of senior driver crashes will be measured.

The Senior Mobility Work Group (SMWG) proposes to increase viable mobility options and awareness for seniors, help older adults maintain mobility regardless of driving status, increase the scope and effectiveness of alternative transportation options available, assist in maintaining safe mobility for as long as possible, assist with planning for a day when driving may no longer be possible, and to increase seniors' knowledge of transportation options available.

Goals

Due to advances in medicine and lifestyle, as well as the demographics of the baby boomer phenomenon, the number of senior drivers and the miles traveled are expected to increase every year. Therefore, absent any intervention, the reasonable expectation is senior crashes, including severe crashes, will increase every year. Given that discussion, any crash reduction in this subgroup of driving population, even holding the line on crashes, would be an improved outcome over current expectations. Instead it is proposed to reduce the percentage of senior driver fatalities and serious injury crashes to number of senior licensed drivers.

Crash goals for Michigan by 2016:

- Reduce the percentage of senior driver crashes to number of senior licensed drivers from 3.09 in 2012 to 2.75 by 2016.
- Reduce the percentage of senior driver KA injuries to number of senior licensed drivers from .090 in 2012 to .075 by 2016.

Senior Driver Crashes

Year	Senior Driver Crashes	K+A Injuries Resulting from Senior Driver Crashes	Fatalities Resulting from Senior Driver Crashes	A Injuries Resulting from Senior Driver Crashes	# of senior licensed drivers
2007	38,014	1,300	219	1,028	1,108,958
2008	37,585	1,251	203	1,047	1,125,966
2009	37,524	1,178	176	1,002	1,169,999
2010	37,983	1,100	190	911	1,185,810
2011	38,555	1,050	177	873	1,212,019
2012	38,896	1,135	199	936	1,259,615
2013	41,762	1,094	236	858	1,307,266
2014	44,799	1,104	190	914	1,360,348
2015					
2016					

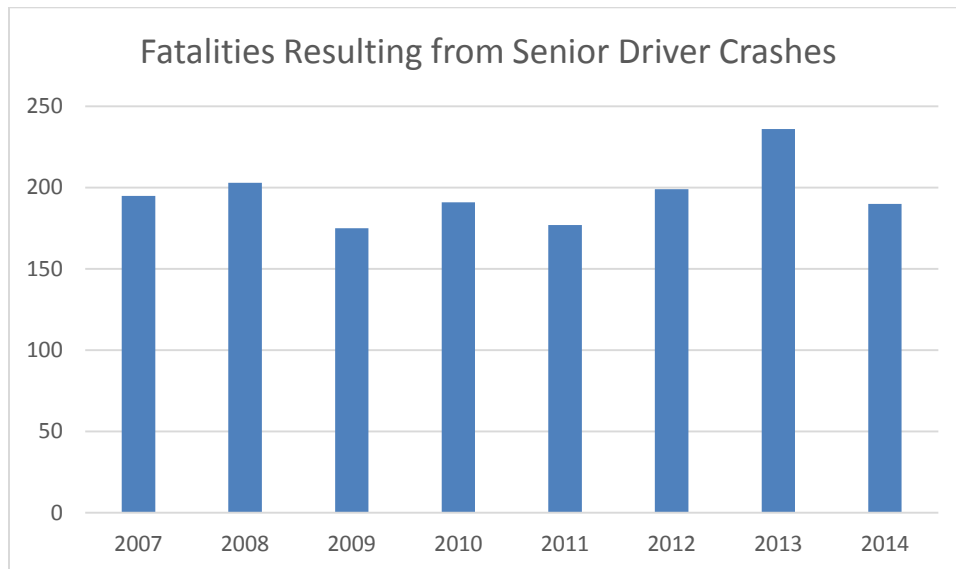
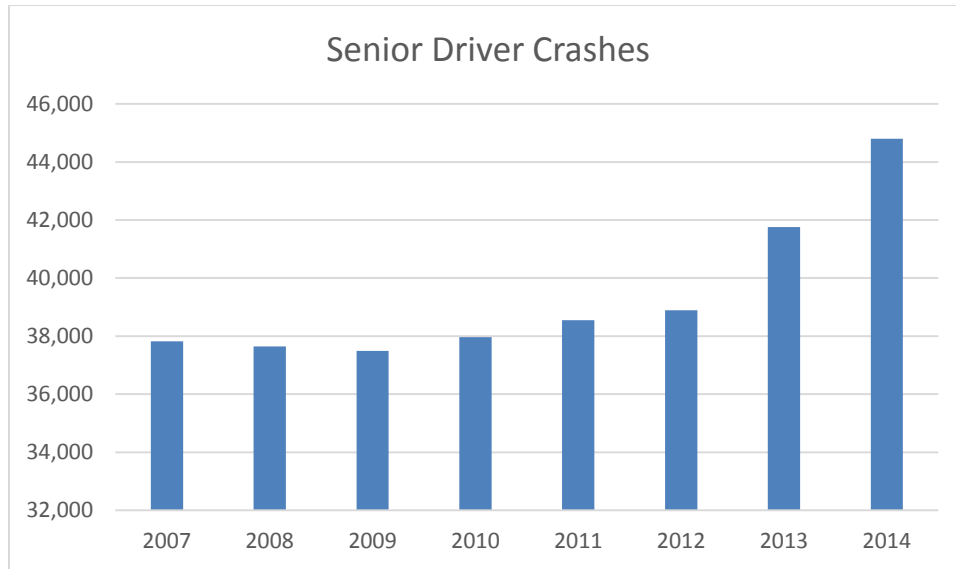
Senior Driver Fatalities and Serious Injuries

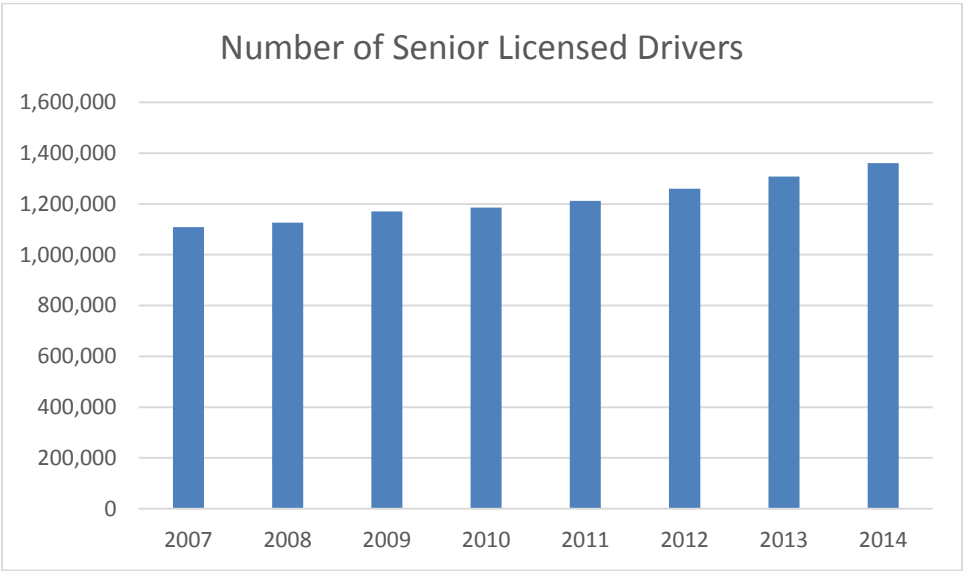
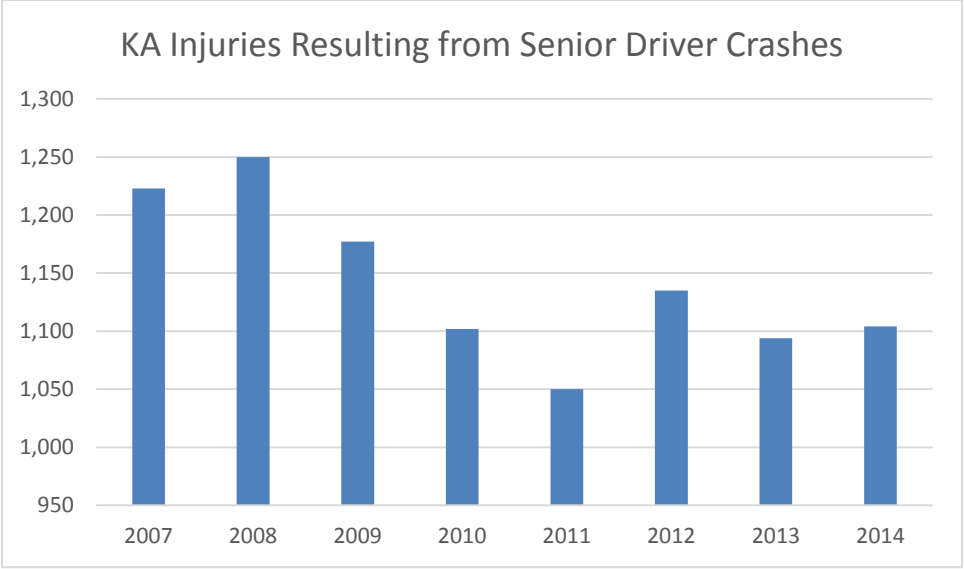
Year	Percent senior driver KA crashes to total KA crashes	Percent senior driver crashes to total crashes	Percent senior drivers to total drivers	Percent Senior driver crashes to # of senior licensed drivers	Percent senior KA injuries to # of senior licensed drivers
2007	14.8	11.7	15.5	3.43	.117
2008	15.4	11.9	15.9	3.34	.111
2009	15.4	12.9	16.5	3.21	.101
2010	15.3	13.5	16.8	3.20	.093
2011	15.2	13.6	17.2	3.18	.087
2012	16.9	14.2	17.8	3.09	.090
2013	17.0	14.4	18.4	3.19	0.84
2014	18.0	15.0	18.8	3.29	0.81
2015					
2016					

* "K" is a fatality; "A" injury is an incapacitating injury.

A senior crash is any crash involving a driver, pedestrian or cyclist age 65 or older.

Source: University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI)





Strategies

Promote and sponsor research in Michigan on senior mobility issues

Objective #1

The agencies involved in the work group will routinely identify the need for research projects on senior mobility, which can be completed or funded by the agencies involved in older adult mobility in Michigan.

Short-Term (1-2 years) Activities:

Starting with Fiscal Year 2014, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will fund research on evaluating the engineering enhancements made based on the 2001 Highway Design Handbook for Older Drivers and Pedestrians and the supplemental Guidelines and Recommendations to Accommodate Older Drivers and Pedestrians. MDOT is working on year two of the project during 2015.

Lead Agency: MDOT

Contact: Safety Programs

Long-Term (5+ years) Activities:

Starting FY 2016 MDOT will fund research on evaluating Michigan older adult crashes with the existing roadway features.

Lead Agency: MDOT

Contact: Safety Programs

Investigate alternative transportation needs and issues, particularly gaps between services needed and services provided within Michigan.

Lead Agency: SMWG

Contact: All Participants

Ongoing Activities:

The SMWG continues to seek out and identify current research opportunities within the State of Michigan and worldwide on senior mobility issues, and communicates them to other stakeholders.

Lead Agency: SMWG

Contact: All Participants

MDOT continues to fund research on senior mobility issues.

Lead Agency: MDOT

Contact: Safety Programs

Injuries that are most common in the age 55 and older population at Beaumont Health's trauma centers, and at Trauma centers statewide and nationally, are falls and motor vehicle crashes. For that reason, a partnership with the AARP Safe Drivers program in Michigan was initiated in 2012 and continues today. This program encompasses classes taught in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and includes a pre- and post-testing component to the two-day Safe Drivers Course. The results of this testing demonstrates significant driving gained by senior drivers after participation in the AARP Driver Safety Program. This Measurable Outcome Study will be ongoing and results will be shared with the AARP National office, injury prevention coordinators, and ThinkFirst educators throughout the state.

Lead Agency: Beaumont Health Royal Oak

Contact: Injury Prevention Coordinator

Plan for an aging mobility and transportation dependent population

Objective #2

Encourage agencies to consider the aging population when planning their communities. Also encourage agencies to take into account how transportation dependent their population is, and how that should be taken into account in the planning process.

Short-term (1-2 years) Activities:

Invite a Transportation Planner to join the SMWG.

Lead Agency: MDOT, SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments)

Contact: Office of Passenger Transportation/Plan Implementation Group

Long-Term (5+ years) Activities:

All agencies of the SMWG will identify applicable agencies and invite the agencies to be part of the work group to further enhance the housing and land use issues within Michigan.

Lead Agency: SMWG

Contact: All Participants

Ongoing Activities:

The SMWG will continue promoting the use of the following resources among the task force and relevant agencies:

- *Land Use Tools and Techniques: A Handbook for Local Communities* (SEMCOG)
- *Removing Regulatory Barriers to Housing Options for the Elderly* (Cornell University)
- *Creating Walkable Communities: A Guide for Local Governments* (Mid-America Regional Council (MARC))
- *Design Guidelines for Active Michigan Communities* (Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health, and Sports, Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), and Michigan State University (MSU))
- *Michigan Community for a Lifetime: Elder Friendly Community Recognition Toolkit* (State Advisory Council on Aging, Office of Services to the Aging (OSA), MDCH, Michigan Vital Aging Think Tank, MSU extension) http://www.michigan.gov/miseniors/0,1607,7-234-43293_46728---,00.html

Lead Agency: SMWG

Contact: All Participants

The SMWG and partner agencies will continue to work on educating state and local governments on the importance of creating communities that are senior friendly.

Lead Agency: SMWG

Contact: All Participants

The SMWG member agencies continue to support the *Complete Streets* concept and legislation.

Lead Agency: SMWG

Contact: All Participants

Beaumont Health offers “*A Matter of Balance*” classes to older adults. This program consists of 8 two-hour sessions and often serves as the portal to continued exercise classes for people who lack physical activity for medical or personal reasons. This program addresses the fears of aging and health-related conditions that contribute to isolation, lack of self-confidence and vulnerability in many aspects of senior living. Program participants learn to be more assertive and self-confident in their skills and abilities, and in their interactions with others. These essential skills for driving, along with improved physical strength and flexibility are important aspects of keeping our aging population stronger and driving as safely as possible for as long as possible. The Michigan Area Agencies on Aging were awarded funding to support the expansion of the program, with the goal of training 4,000 high risk seniors.

Lead Agency: Beaumont Health Royal Oak, Area Agency on Aging 1-B

Contact Name: Injury Prevention Coordinator, Mobility Manager

In 2014 the Aging Road User Interstate Collaboration Group was formed. Quarterly meetings are held where state traffic safety professionals share tips, materials and ideas related to older driver safety. MDOT, MDOS, and OHSP will continue to participate.

Lead Agency: MDOT, MDOS, OHSP

Contact: Safety Programs/Traffic Safety Division/Planning and Administration.

Promote the design and operation of Michigan roadways with features that better accommodate the special needs of older drivers and pedestrians

Objective #3

Promote the design and operation of Michigan roadways with features that better accommodate the special needs of older drivers and pedestrians. Review any new processes for improving the design and operation of our roadways, and encourage all agencies to adopt those that are shown to be feasible in Michigan.

Short Term (1-2 years) Activities:

MDOT will adopt a policy to install back plates at east-west signal approaches and on all approaches at high-crash intersections, and will encourage similar action at local agencies.

Lead Agency: MDOT

Contact: Safety Programs

Ongoing Activities:

MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will continue to offer power point presentations to local and statewide audiences on engineering enhancements showing the benefits for the senior driver and pedestrian.

Lead Agency: MDOT and FHWA

Contact: Safety Programs

MDOT will continue to support actions by the GTSAC Traffic Safety Engineering Action Team to provide for easier navigation and safer operations at intersections through design and operational improvements.

Lead Agency: MDOT

Contact: Safety Programs

MDOT will continue to review and adopt what is replicable from the FHWA *Older Driver Highway Design Handbook*, and any other older driver best practices that are identified outside the Handbook. MDOT is reviewing the 2014 FHWA Handbook for Designing Roadway for the Aging Population to determine what should and can be adopted in Michigan.

Lead Agency: MDOT

Contact: Safety Programs

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MDOT and local agencies continue to adopt the *Complete Streets* legislation, which is intended to improve mobility for older adults.

Lead Agency: MDOT

Contact: Office of Passenger Transportation

Develop and/or enhance programs to identify older drivers at increased risk of crashes and take appropriate action

Objective #4

Enable older drivers to retain as much mobility through driving as is consistent with safety on the road for themselves, passengers, and other road users.

Short-term (1-2 years) Activities:

The Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) will explore the development of tip cards for law enforcement officers with information on medically at-risk drivers and step-by-step instructions to make referrals to the licensing authority.

Lead Agency: OHSP

Contact: Planning and Administration

OHSP, along with MSP, will seek to provide and coordinate Law Enforcement training regarding Aging Drivers and obtain Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) certification for program completion in an effort to influence officer participation.

Lead Agency: OHSP, MSP

Contact: Planning and Administration/Traffic Services

Encourage Michigan law enforcement officers to view the Video Toolkit on Medical Conditions in Older Drivers videos from the National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Lead Agency: OHSP, MSP

Contact: Planning and Administration/ Traffic Services

OHSP will continue to coordinate one to two sessions at the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit on Older Driver Safety.

Lead Agency: OHSP

Contact: Planning and Administration

Develop recommendations on how the *Driver Fitness Medical Guidelines* developed by NHTSA should be used in assessing drivers.

Lead Agency: MDOS

Contact: Traffic Safety Division

As part of the Older Driver Education and Safe Mobility Planning Strategy Project, a Michigan aging driver Web site is being developed.

Lead Agencies: MDOT, MDOS

Contact: Transportation Planning/Traffic Safety Division

Long-Term (5+ years) Activities:

Seek opportunities for providing older driver safety training to medical professionals.

Lead Agency: OHSP

Contact: Planning and Administration

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Ongoing Activities:

At driver's license renewal, Michigan drivers are screened and may be required to have their physician and/or optometrist submit a report to the department for further evaluation and may be required to appear for a driver reexamination.

Lead Agency: MDOS

Contact: Traffic Safety Division

The *Request for Driver Evaluation* referral program provides a process for medical professionals, law enforcement, family members and friends, and concerned citizens to make referrals to the MDOS of drivers whom they believe may be unsafe to drive. Information and forms are located on the MDOS Web site at www.michigan.gov/sos. The MDOS presents information about the *Request for Driver Evaluation* process to law enforcement agencies, medical professionals, and other groups upon request.

Lead Agency: MDOS

Contact: Traffic Safety Division

On December 13, 2012, Public Acts 354 and 355 became law with immediate effect. These new laws allow but do not require a physician or optometrist to report to the Secretary of State a patient's mental and physical qualifications to operate a motor vehicle. If they report, they must recommend a period of license suspension, and would be immune from criminal or civil liability. The report and recommendation are to be considered confidentially in a reexamination regarding the applicant's qualifications to operate a motor vehicle.

Lead Agency: MDOS

Contact: Traffic Safety Division

Drivers may be programmatically identified and required to appear for a driver reexamination administered by the MDOS if (regardless of age):

- Involved in three or more crashes resulting in injury or property damage during the last two years.
- Involved in a fatal crash.
- Twelve or more points on his or her driver record within two years.
- Convicted of violating the terms, restrictions or conditions of the driver's license.

Lead Agency: MDOS

Contact: Traffic Safety Division

Individuals may return their driver's license to a Secretary of State (SOS) office and obtain a state identification card. This identification card is free for those who are legally blind, age 65 or older, or have lost their privilege to drive due to a physical or mental disability.

Lead Agency: MDOS

Contact: Traffic Safety Division

Review and revise the structure, policies, and procedures related to medical review of potential at-risk drivers so appropriate action is taken to do nothing or restrict, suspend, or revoke driver's licenses.

Lead Agency: MDOS

Contact: Traffic Safety Division

An *Older Driver Safety* presentation is available for use in community outreach, specifically at senior centers, and delivered by Michigan State Police (MSP) Community Service Troopers.

Lead Agency: MSP, OHSP

Contact: Traffic Services /Planning and Administration

The MDOT, MDOS, AAA, and OHSP collaborated to develop *Michigan's Guide for Aging Drivers and Their Families*. A printed older driver safety guidebook intended for aging drivers, their families, law enforcement and the medical community. It is distributed via the Michigan Department of State to, senior centers, the medical community, and others. The booklet was completed in the spring of 2014, and Michigan Senior Mobility Action Team 2013-2016
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outreach to organizations that might help promote is ongoing. Booklets can be ordered, at no cost, at Michigan.gov/agingdriver.

Lead Agency: MDOT, MDOS, AAA, OHSP

Contact: Safety Programs/Traffic Safety Division/Public Affairs/Planning and Administration

Continue to attend events, meetings, conferences, etc. and present and/or distribute information related to aging driver issues and programs.

Lead Agency: MDOS

Contact: Traffic Safety Division

Encourage senior-friendly transportation options

Objective #5

Assist drivers and families or caregivers in making decisions that make use of safe transportation options and help sustain the individual's self-determination, dignity, and quality of life.

Short-Term (1-2 years) Activities:

CarFit is a free, interactive and educational program developed by AAA, AARP, and AOTA that teaches older adults how to make their personal vehicle "fit" them to increase safety and mobility when they are driving on the roads. Through representation on the Senior Mobility Work Group, the Michigan Trauma Coalition is partnering with the Michigan OHSP, MDOT, MDOS, and AARP to revitalize this program for older adults throughout the state. MTC injury prevention members have expressed a strong interest in the training required for participating in and offering the CarFit program in their communities throughout the state of Michigan. A 2-day training event is scheduled for all interested members in August 2015. Attendees of this training will be both "Technician" and "Event Coordinator" trained, which means that they will be able to return to their cities and health care facilities, train additional volunteers, who in turn, can participate in Car Fit events for community members to learn these new and safer practices when in their vehicles, on the road.

Lead Agency: Michigan Trauma Coalition (MTC), AARP

Contact: Beaumont Injury Prevention Coord/Associate Director and Driver Safety Coord.

Older Driver Education and Safe Mobility Planning Strategy Project - MDOT is administering a three-year contract that will plan, test, and implement an effective, sustainable statewide safety education and intervention strategy for drivers over age 60. The goals are to promote self-assessment of personal driving skills, make skill building tools available to extend safe driving, and to assist older drivers and any support givers make a safe and independent transition from personal vehicle use to other options for personal mobility and independence. The project also involves assembling a team of advisory stakeholders on older driver safety, including older adults and their families, and professionals in healthcare, law enforcement, human services and aging, and transportation planning.

Lead Agency: MDOT

Contact: Bureau of Transportation Planning

Ongoing Activities:

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will continue to provide the *Driver Safety Program*.

Lead Agency: AARP

Contact: Driver Safety Coordinator

AARPs "We Need to Talk" program will continue to be promoted and utilized.

Lead Agency: AARP

Contact: Driver Safety Coordinator

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Continue to identify self-help resources available to help drivers maintain a driver's license and promote safety.

Lead Agency: SMWG

Contact: All Participants

Promote the Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA1-B) "Myride2 Mobility Management Service".

Lead Agency: AAA1-B

Contact: Mobility Manager

The MDOS provides information to drivers whose driver's license is suspended or revoked regarding local resources and contact information for alternative transportation options. A listing of Alternative Transportation Services/Transit Authorities by County is maintained and available at Michigan.gov/sos.

Lead Agency: MDOS

Contact: Traffic Safety Division

Provide recommendations related to senior mobility and safety legislation
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Objective #6

Make recommendations for improved legislation as it relates to senior mobility and safety.

Short-term (1-2 years) Activities:

AAA1-B's mobility management service, *Myride2*, continues to provide transportation options and older driver information, the Regional Elder Mobility-Alliance (REMA brings together aging and disability advocates to promote public transit, and the new Regional Transit Authority.

Lead Agency: MDOT and AAA1-B

Contact: Office of Passenger Transportation/Mobility Manager

Support efforts to grow Regional Transit Authority in Southeast Michigan.

MDOT/Office of Passenger Transportation assists RTA and the RTA Citizen's Advisory Council activities.

Lead Agency: MDOT and AAA1-B

Contact: Office of Passenger Transportation/Mobility Manager

Myride2 service continues to grow in southeast Michigan. Support efforts to ensure support is available throughout the region and continue to support mobility management services.

Lead Agency: MDOT and AAA1-B

Contact: Office of Passenger Transportation/Mobility Manager

Continue supporting *Complete Streets* Legislation. MDOT/Office of Passenger Transportation continues to support and provide guidance on Complete Streets.

Lead Agency: MDOT and AARP

Contact: Office of Passenger Transportation/Mobility Manager

Continue to develop partnerships with the medical community regarding physician reporting of drivers needing evaluation.

Lead Agency: MDOS

Contact: Traffic Safety Division

Long-Term (5+ years) Activities:

Explore opportunities for regional transportation throughout Michigan.

Lead Agency: MDOT

Contact: Office of Passenger Transportation

<p>Improve communication and coordination among partners at the state, regional and local levels to enhance senior mobility</p>
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Objective #7

Improve communication among partners and among seniors at all levels to enhance mobility for all citizens of Michigan, especially seniors.

Long-Term (5+ years) Activities:

The Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) will consider the range of recommendations for housing and transportation included in the *2012 Needs Assessment* in developing the *OSA State Plan* and in exploring, shaping, and expanding policy and program initiatives regarding transportation in 2014-2016.

Lead Agency: OSA

Contact: Aging and Adult Services

Ongoing Activities:

The Regional Elder Mobility Alliance (REMA) will continue to utilize and promote the *Communications Component of the Public Engagement and Support* campaign developed as it relates to seniors in southeast Michigan. This communications component should be able to be utilized statewide as a way to communicate with seniors, their caregivers and by those agencies intended to assist them in maintaining their mobility and advocating for transit options. REMA launched the new website seniors4transit.com to support public engagement efforts.

Lead Agency: AAA-1B

Contact: Mobility Manager

Acronyms

AAA	American Automobile Association
AAA1-B	Area Agency on Aging 1-B
AARP	American Association of Retired Persons
AMA	American Medical Association
AOTA	American Occupational Therapy Association
CME	Continuing Medical Education
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
GTSAC	Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission
MARC	Mid-America Regional Council
MCOLES	Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards
MDCH	Michigan Department of Community Health
MDOS	Michigan Department of State
MDOT	Michigan Department of Transportation
MSP	Michigan State Police
MSU	Michigan State University
MTA	Michigan Trauma Coalition
NACEM	North American Conference on Elderly Mobility
NHTSA	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
OHSP	Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning
OSA	Office of Services to the Aging
SOS	Secretary of State
SEMCOG	Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
SHSP	Strategic Highway Safety Plan
SMWG	Senior Mobility Work Group
UMTRI	University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute

Acknowledgements

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UMTRI

Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning

Michigan Department of State

Michigan Department of Transportation

Michigan State Police

Office of Services to the Aging

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments